

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for tracking facsimile jobs, comprising of:

(a) determining whether a return message is associated with a prepared message that originated at an originating device, and

(b) in response to an affirmative determining, interpreting the return message as an incoming message not intended for printing and processing the return message according to a first predetermined configuration of the originating device including disallowing printing of the return message;

whereby in response to a negative determining, an incoming message is interpreted as a valid message intended for printing and is processed according to a second predetermined configuration of the originating device;

wherein the return message includes first information indicative of a destination address and second information indicative of an originating address, the method further comprising:

comparing the first and second information;

in response to the comparing, interpreting a match of the first and second information as being the result of a round-trip job which originated at the originating device and which is intended for printing; and

in response to the match of the first and second information, processing the return message according to the second predetermined configuration.

2. (Previously presented) The method of **claim 1**, wherein the determining further comprises detecting the presence of information indicative of the error condition in the return message.

3. (Previously presented) The method of **claim 2**, further comprising reporting the arrival of the return message by use of an error reporting mechanism.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) The method of **claim 1**, including transmitting the prepared message as a facsimile communication over a telephone network.

7. (Previously presented) The method of **claim 1**, including transmitting the prepared message as a facsimile communication over a wide area network.

8. (Previously presented) The method of **claim 1**, including transmitting the prepared message as an Internet facsimile message over the Internet.

9. (Currently amended) A method for tracking facsimile jobs, comprising of:

(a) determining whether a return message is associated with a prepared message that originated at an originating device, and

(b) in response to an affirmative determining, interpreting the return message as an incoming message not intended for printing and processing the return message according to a first predetermined configuration of the originating device including disallowing printing of the return message;

whereby in response to a negative determining, an incoming message is interpreted as a valid message intended for printing and is processed according to a second predetermined configuration of the originating device;-

wherein preparing the prepared message further comprises embedding indicia in the prepared message, with such indicia being suitable for subsequent examination by the originating device in order to determine whether the return message originated from the originating device.

10. (Original) The method of **claim 9**, wherein the embedded information is provided in the form of a plurality of redundant indicia.

11. (Previously presented) The method of **claim 1**, wherein the determining further comprises extracting information indicative of an error condition from a plurality of locations within the return message.

12. (Previously presented) The method of **claim 11**, wherein the extracting further comprises extracting information indicative of an error condition from within at least one of a message header, a message identification, an envelope identification, a Delivery Status Notification (DSN), and a Message Delivery Notification (MDN).